



United States Department of Agriculture

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of the Chief  
Information Officer

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW  
Washington, DC  
20250

May 6, 2019

**Delivered via Electronic Mail**

Austin R. Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street NW  
Suite B255  
Washington, DC 20005  
[foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org)

**Re: Final Response for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2018-DA-05903-F**

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO) final response to the above-referenced FOIA request, seeking the following records "to shed light on the circumstances surrounding [President Trump's] pardons" to Dwight and Steven Hammond:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar entries/invitations, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) involving (including those copied or blind copied) any of the following individuals or organizations:

- a. Forrest Lucas
- b. Glen Klippenstein
- c. Thomas Fredrickson
- d. Dale Ludwig
- e. Eric Whitley
- f. Dave Duquette
- g. Trent Loos
- h. Protect the Harvest
- i. Protect the Harvest Action Fund
- j. ESX Entertainment
- k. Lucas Oil Products
- l. National Federal Lands Conference
- m. Kathy Smith
- n. Dwight Hammond

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- o. Steven Hammond
- p. Ammon Bundy
- q. Ryan Bundy
- r. Cliven Bundy
- s. Ryan Payne
- t. Brandon Curtiss
- u. Michele Fiore

USDA may limit its search to all political appointees or members of the Career SES within the Office of the Secretary. “Political appointee” should be understood as any person who is a Presidential Appointee with Senate Confirmation (PAS), a Presidential Appointee (PA), a Non-career SES, any Schedule C employees, or any persons hired under Temporary Non-career SES Appointments, Limited Term SES Appointments, or Temporary Transitional Schedule C Appointments.

Please provide all responsive records from January 20, 2017, through the date of the search.

2. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar entries/invitations, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) with any individual or organization outside of DOI.

For this portion of this request, only records that contain the following search terms in the subject line, body of the email, or attachment should be considered responsive:

- a. Bundy
- b. Hammond
- c. “Forrest Lucas”
- d. “Protect the Harvest”
- e. PTH
- f. Malheur
- g. Harney
- h. Finicum
- i. “3 percent”
- j. “three percent”
- k. Militia

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- l. “Constitutional sheriff”
- m. “Oath Keeper”
- n. Oathkeeper
- o. “Range Rights”

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Please provide all responsive records from January 20, 2017, through the date of the search.

Your request was processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer’s (OCIO) telecommunications provider, the Client Experience Center (CEC). This provider performs network services for the OCIO to include electronic messaging operations, electronic calendars, blackberry, mobile device management (MDM), file and print, remote access, voice, network, service desk, and other application services. The Outlook email, Outlook calendar, and Skype accounts associated with all political appointees or members of the Career SES within the Office of the Secretary were searched, from January 20, 2017 to September 11, 2018; namely:

Sonny Perdue  
Joseph D. Alexander  
Rebeckah Adcock  
Brooke Appleton  
Peter Owen Bachman  
Heidi Green  
Kristi Jeanne Boswell  
Henry Turner Bridgforth  
Sam Barke  
Jordan Bonfitto  
Emily Buckman  
Carly Jean Couture a.k.a. Carly Miller  
Charles Taylor Crowe  
Diane L. Cullo  
Jody Adams Cummins  
Samuel Harvey Clovis Jr.

Jannine Miller  
Auria Eugene McAlicher  
Ted McKinney  
Thomas Hicks Midanek  
Ella Mizrahi  
William Ryan O’Dwyer  
Tim Anthony Page  
Rachel Helen Pick  
Robert Aloysius Placek III  
Andrew Charles Post  
Cameron Paige Quinn  
Elias Michael Rella  
James Renne  
James Claude Epley  
Jacob French  
Joseph Lindberg Gilson

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Stephen Censky  
Brock A. Densel  
George Smith Dunlop  
Austin Rex Harris  
Bethany Blair Hudson  
Anne Hazlett  
Dudley Hoskins  
Gregory Ibach  
Kevin Alan Jayne  
Joshua James Jones  
Ben Keel  
Brian Klippenstein  
Dino Luigi La Verghetta  
Russel Weldon Laird  
Brandon Lipps  
Maggie Lyons  
Alan Mackey  
Brenton McKneely  
Joby Freeman Young

Misty Giles  
Erin Wilson  
Kailee Tkacz  
Andrew Blake Rollins  
William Seth Russell  
Alexis Reuss  
Mark Sanborn  
Gina Sheets  
Campbell Eileen Shuford  
Joel Sawyer Small  
Lauren Elizabeth Sullivan  
Raymond Albert Starling  
Thayer Lamont Verschoor  
Nicholas Matteo Westcott  
Joshual Danilem Whitehouse  
Robyn G. Whitney  
Jake Wilkins  
Larry Christopher Young  
Christopher P. O'Hagan

No responsive records were identified as a result of the search.

You may appeal this determination by email at [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov), or by mail to the Assistant Secretary for Administration at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Whitten Building, Room 209-A, Washington, D.C. 20250-0103. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The DFO will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above, a copy of the original request, the DFO's response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Ravoyne Payton at [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov).

You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit <https://ogis.archives.gov/mediation-program/request-assistance.htm> for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.

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If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Camille Aponte at (202) 694-5260, or electronically at [Camille.Aponte@usda.gov](mailto:Camille.Aponte@usda.gov) or [USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov](mailto:USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov).

For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at [www.dm.usda.gov/foia](http://www.dm.usda.gov/foia).

The DFO Team appreciates the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

*Alexis R. Graves*

Alexis R. Graves  
Departmental FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer